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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



re Application of :

Naoto MIWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1617

Serial No.: 09/787,394

Examiner: Shahnam J. Sharareh

Filed: March 19, 2001

For: NEAR INFRARED FLUORESCENT CONTRAST AGENT AND  
FLUORESCENCE IMAGING

**REPLY**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated December 18, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.